

shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Office states that claims 1 and 4-11 are generic.

The Office Action further states that Applicant is required to elect (B) one gel or porous type cation exchange resins from the list recited in claim 5 and to identify the name brand(s) in claim 6 corresponding to the elected specie of resin of claim 5. (Applicants note that the Action includes typographical errors, which the Examiner has clarified by telephone.) The Examiner has also requested that Applicants indicate whether the resins elected are of the gel or porous type. The Office asserts the species are independent or distinct because each cation exchange resin is synthesized in a manner that provides for different capacities for absorbing various cations. The Office notes that Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Office states that 1-4 and 7-11 are generic.

Election with Traverse

In response, Applicants elect from group A: methacrylic synthetic adsorbents (claim 2), corresponding to DIAION HP2MG (claim 3). Claims 1-11 read on the elected species and claims 1-11 are generic. These elections are made with traverse.

Applicants further elect from group B: porous type cation exchange resins (claim 5), corresponding to TRILITE SPC 400LH (claim 6). Claims 1-11 read on the elected species and claims 1-11 are generic. These elections are made with traverse.

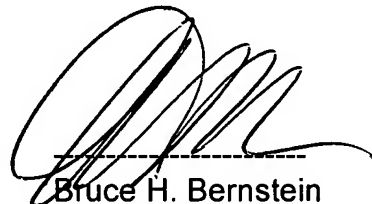
Applicants' traversal is on the basis that the search of one specie would sufficiently overlap the search of any other specie, and that such search should not be unduly

burdensome on the Examiner. Applicants remind the Examiner that the MPEP specifically states that all claims should be examined together, even if distinctness is present, if the examination would not be unduly burdensome. Applicants submit that the instant situation qualifies.

If any fees are due for consideration of this Response, the Office is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
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